

Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2005
Amendment Dated: July 5, 2005

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

Listing of Claims

1 1 (Currently Amended): A method of supporting a user to access a service, said
2 method being performed in a service selection gateway (SSG), said method comprising:
3 receiving in said SSG, data representing a plurality of switching points, each of said
4 plurality of switching points comprising a time point;
5 counting in said SSG, a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of switching
6 points; and
7 sending from said SSG, an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of
2 switching points comprises a time point at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said traffic volume comprises an
2 aggregate count of data transferred.

1 4 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said traffic volume comprises a
2 marginal count from a previous switching point, said accounting record further comprising
3 an aggregate count.

1 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, further comprising maintaining a marginal
2 counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and said aggregate count
3 respectively.

1 6 (Original): The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;
3 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching
4 points; and
5 computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record by
6 subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2005
Amendment Dated: July 5, 2005

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1 7 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said accounting record is sent at least
2 once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between successive ones of
3 said plurality of switching points.

1 8 (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein said plurality of switching points are
2 specified for each day.

1 9 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said service is billed according to a
2 post-paid model.

1 10 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said traffic volume is associated with
2 a session initiated by said user.

1 11 (Currently Amended): A machine readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions for causing a SSG to support a user to access a service, wherein
3 execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 contained in said SSG causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:

5 receiving in said SSG, data representing a plurality of switching points, wherein
6 each of said switching points comprises a time point;

7 counting in said SSG, a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of switching
8 points; and

9 sending from said SSG, an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 12 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein each
2 of said plurality of switching points comprises a time point at which a tariff changes to
3 access said service.

1 13 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 12, wherein said traffic
2 volume comprises an aggregate count of data transferred.

Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2005
Amendment Dated: July 5, 2005

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1 14 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 12, wherein said traffic
2 volume comprises a marginal count from a previous switching point, said accounting
3 record further comprising an aggregate count.

1 15 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, further comprising
2 maintaining a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and
3 said aggregate count respectively.

1 16 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:
2 maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;
3 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching
4 points; and
5 computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record by
6 subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 17 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said accounting
2 record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between
3 successive ones of said plurality of switching points.

1 18 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein said plurality of
2 switching points are specified for each day of a week.

1 19 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said service is
2 billed according to a post-paid model.

1 20 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said traffic
2 volume is associated with a session initiated by said user.

1 21 (Currently Amended): A service selection gateway (SSG) supporting a user to
2 access a service, said SSG comprising:

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Amendment Dated: July 5, 2005

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

3 means for receiving data representing a plurality of switching points, wherein each
4 of said switching points comprises a time point;

5 means for counting a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of switching
6 points; and

7 means for sending an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 22 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of
2 switching points comprises a time point at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 23 (Original): The SSG of claim 22, wherein said traffic volume comprises an
2 aggregate count of data transferred.

1 24 (Original): The SSG of claim 22, wherein said traffic volume comprises a
2 marginal count from a previous switching point, said accounting record further comprising
3 an aggregate count.

1 25 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, further comprising means for maintaining a
2 marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and said aggregate
3 count respectively.

1 26 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, further comprising:
2 means for maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;
3 means for storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of
4 switching points; and
5 means for computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting
6 record by subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 27 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said accounting record is sent at least
2 once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between successive ones of
3 said plurality of switching points.

Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2005
Amendment Dated: July 5, 2005

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1 28 (Original): The SSG of claim 27, wherein said plurality of switching points are
2 specified for each day.

1 29 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said service is billed according to a
2 post-paid model.

1 30 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said traffic volume is associated with
2 a session initiated by said user.

1 31 (Currently Amended): A service selection gateway (SSG) supporting a user to
2 access a service, said SSG comprising:
3 a tariff block receiving data representing a plurality of switching points, wherein
4 each of said switching points comprises a time point;
5 a forwarding block forwarding a plurality of packets related to said user,
6 an accounting block counting a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of
7 switching points according to said plurality of packets; and
8 an outbound interface sending an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 32 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 31, wherein each of said plurality of
2 switching points comprises a time point at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 33 (Original): The SSG of claim 32, wherein said traffic volume comprises an
2 aggregate count of data transferred.

1 34 (Original): The SSG of claim 32, wherein said traffic volume comprises a marginal
2 count from a previous switching point, said accounting record further comprising an
3 aggregate count.

Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2005
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Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1 35 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting block maintains a
2 marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and said aggregate
3 count respectively.

1 36 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting block maintains a single
2 counter to count said aggregate count, said accounting block storing said aggregate count in
3 a variable at each of said plurality of switching points, and computing said marginal count
4 at a time of generating said accounting record by subtracting said variable from said
5 aggregate counter at said time.

1 37 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting record is sent at least
2 once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between successive ones of said
3 plurality of switching points.

1 38 (Original): The SSG of claim 37, wherein said plurality of switching points are
2 specified for each day.

1 39 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said service is billed according to a post-
2 paid model.

1 40 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said traffic volume is associated with
2 a session initiated by said user.